

I want access to televised information and entertainment, just like everyone else. Closed captions make television programs accessible to me and my family and friends who are deaf or hard of hearing. Closed captioning is an essential part of any television program.

The law requiring closed captioning was passed in 1996. The FCC established closed captioning rules in 1998. The rules required closed captioning to be increased gradually over 8 years. Since January 2006, 100% of all new television programs must be captioned, with some exceptions. This program should not be an exception.

Deaf and hard of hearing people are interested in and enjoy watching all kinds of television programs: auto sales; food; health; hunting, fishing, and the outdoors; infomercials and long-form advertising; music, arts, and entertainment; public and community affairs; real estate sales; sports; and other kinds of television programs. We should not be limited to the pictures and information shown in print on-screen. We want access to all of the information that is shared by the program host and/or through voiceover audio. We want access to the interviews, tips, commentary, humor, and suggestions that enhance the program and make it informative and enjoyable to watch. We are active, productive members of our communities who want to become better informed, educated, and involved in our communities.

Today, closed captions are not too difficult or too expensive. No program should be on television without closed captions!

I cannot watch television programs without closed captions.

With closed captions, I get the program information and the message that the program producer cares about me.

The FCC must support deaf and hard of hearing consumers and must enforce the closed captioning rules!

[Choose ONE of these next paragraphs to make your Recommendation – A, B, C, or D]

Recommendation A – Did not demonstrate undue burden; recommends deny request.

I oppose this request because the Petitioner failed to demonstrate that providing closed captioning would impose an undue burden (too difficult or too expensive). I urge the FCC to deny this request and require the Petitioner to comply with the closed captioning rules within 90 days.

Recommendation B – Not enough information to determine undue burden; recommends deny request.

I oppose this request because the Petitioner failed to demonstrate that providing closed captioning would impose an undue burden (too difficult or too expensive). I recommend that the Petitioner be given 180 days: (1) to comply with the closed captioning rules; or (2) to re-apply with enough information to allow the FCC and the public to determine whether compliance with the closed captioning rules would impose an undue burden.

C – Information provided; may be undue burden; recommends waiver for 2 years.

I oppose this request, generally, but I believe that the Petitioner has provided information that suggests that providing closed captioning now might impose an undue burden (be too difficult or too expensive). I recommend that the Petitioner be given a temporary waiver of two (2) years to comply with the closed captioning rules.

Recommendation D – Requested temporary waiver; recommends waiver for time period requested or 3 months if time period has passed.

I oppose this request, generally, but I believe that the Petitioner wants to comply with the closed captioning rules. Petitioner requested a temporary waiver from the closed captioning rules. Therefore,

I recommend that the Petitioner be given the time period requested (or 90 days if that time period has passed) to comply with the closed captioning rules.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]